

Western Avenue PCE

Boundaries:

The Western Avenue Plume site is bounded approximately by the groundwater contamination plume which generally extends from Hill Drive (north of Western Avenue) to the north, Third Street to the east, approximately 1000 feet north of State Route 85 to the south and the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport to the west.

Site History:

- In 1993, perchloroethylene (PCE) was detected upgradient of the National Priority List (NPL) Phoenix-Goodyear Airport (PGA) South site. Subunit A wells at the PGA site showed an increasing trend in PCE.
- In 1994, ADEQ conducted soil vapor sampling at the City of Goodyear Public Works facility and also at Western Dry Cleaners. The soil vapor sampling did not detect any significant concentrations of PCE.
- In 1995, two monitor wells were installed to characterize the groundwater quality east and north of the PGA south site.
- The site was placed on the WQARF Registry in December 1998 with a score of 51 out of a possible 120.
- In October 2000, ADEQ installed five monitoring wells as part of an early response action (ERA) evaluation. The purpose of the ERA evaluation was to (1) better define the lateral and vertical extent of contamination, (2) gain a better understanding of where the source area may be located, and (3) to determine the approximate mass of PCE within the plume.
- In March 2001, ADEQ conducted a soil gas survey at the former Aladdin Dry Cleaners property. Results of the soil gas survey indicated minor concentrations of PCE.
- In July 2001, ADEQ began a remedial investigation (RI) at the site.
- In October 2002, a draft Industrial Survey Report was completed as part of the RI to focus on any potential source areas. The data obtained from the Industrial Survey indicated that additional source investigations would not be required as part of the RI.

Site Status:

- Currently the highest concentration of PCE in groundwater is 11 micrograms per liter (µg/l) as of October 2002. The aquifer water quality standard (AWQS) for PCE is 5 µg/l. The PCE contaminated groundwater at the site is currently being remediated by the PGA-South treatment system.

- The Industrial Survey Report has been completed. Groundwater monitoring will continue for the well network.
- A draft remedial investigation (RI) report is currently being prepared.

Site Hydrogeology:

- Groundwater beneath the site exists in three units termed Subunit A, Subunit B, and Subunit C. The Western Avenue WQARF site is concerned with the PCE contaminated groundwater that exists in Subunit A. Subunit A consists of alluvial sediments located between the ground surface and approximately 130 feet below ground surface (bgs). Subunit B consists of a thick clay layer and underlays Subunit A. Subunit C consists of alluvial sediments and is believed to exist between approximately 240 and 360 feet bgs.
- Groundwater flow is generally to the west. The depth to water in February 2003 ranged from approximately 58 to 67 feet bgs. Water levels are currently four to 12 feet lower than the highest levels in early 2001. The groundwater gradient at the site is approximately .002 feet per foot (ft/ft). A groundwater divide appears to be present at the site with groundwater flowing to the northwest, north of MW-7 and southwest, south of MW-7.

Contaminants:

The current contaminants of concern in groundwater include PCE, a solvent commonly used in dry cleaning. Contaminants of concern at the site may change as new data become available.

Public Health Impact:

Due to high nitrate concentrations from historical agricultural land practices, the upper groundwater aquifer is used mainly as an irrigation source. Public drinking water supplied to the area is regularly tested to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

Community Involvement Activities:

A community advisory group (CAG) was formed in January 2001 in conjunction with the PGA North and South Superfund sites and meets on a regular basis. These meetings are open to the public. The CAG meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed at <http://www.adeq.az.us/enviro/waste/sps/reg.html>.

Information Repository:

Interested parties can review site information at the information repository at the Avondale Public Library located at 328 West Western Avenue in Avondale, (623) 932-9415. Site information is also available at the ADEQ main office located at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix. Site information is available for review Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for a time to review the public site file, please call the ADEQ Records Center (602) 771-4378 or (800) 234-5677 (Arizona toll free).

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*In Arizona, but outside the Phoenix area, call toll free (800) 234-5677.